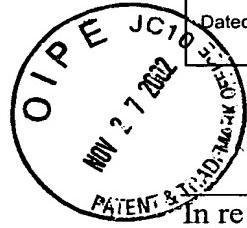


11-29-02
I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the U.S. Postal Service as Express Mail, Airbill No. EU098496564US, in an envelope addressed to: Box Non-Fee Amendment, Commissioner for Patents, Washington, DC 20231, on the date shown below.

Dated: November 27, 2002

Monica L. Thomas
(Monica Thomas)

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JG
11-29-02
Docket No.: HO-P01952US0
(PATENT)



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Patent Application of:
Julie A. Bearcroft, et al.

Application No.: 09/517,981

Group Art Unit: 3738

Filed: March 3, 2000

Examiner: B. Pellegrino

For: SHAPED PARTICLE AND COMPOSITION
FOR BONE DEFICIENCY AND METHOD OF
MAKING THE PARTICLE

RECEIVED

DEC - 4 2002

TECHNOLOGY CENTER R3700

Box Non-Fee Amendment
Commissioner for Patents
Washington, DC 20231

Dear Sir:

In response to the Office Action dated August 27, 2002, please amend the above-identified U.S. patent application as follows:

AMENDMENTS

In the claims:

Please cancel claims 17-19, 23-25, and 66 without prejudice and without acquiescence. Please amend the following claims:

1. (Once Amended) A shaped particle for use in treating a bone deficiency wherein said particle is shaped for use in an array of particles interlocked with one another, comprising:

a center portion; and

no more than six tapered extremities projecting from said center portion wherein said projections provide for interstitial spaces between adjacent extremities, each extremity having a base attached at said center portion, an opposite point, a length, and a circular transverse cross-sectional configuration, wherein said interstitial spaces of one said particle will accept at least one extremity of an adjacent said particle to facilitate interlocking